

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK, NEW YORK**

NY FILE NO. **100-54965** HAF

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK	DATE WHEN MADE 5/9/44	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 5/4, 5, 6, 8/44	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED]
TITLE JOHN J. ABT			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: <p><i>ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE</i></p> <p><i>SP3 B. [illegible] 12/12/95 DECLASSIFIED BY SP12/BTJ/gt ON 7/13/95 # 3516590</i></p> <p><i>AGENCY: [illegible] REC'D: [illegible] REP'T FORW. [illegible] BY [illegible]</i></p> <p>JOHN J. ABT, a key figure in New York Field Division, was born 5-1-04 at Chicago, Ill; has Social Security #061-12-6145; obtained law degree at UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO; is general counsel for the AMALGAMATED CLOTHING WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA, NYC. Previously was Special Assistant to the Attorney General in the Anti-Trust Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, from July, 1937 to November, 1938. He was the former chief counsel for the U.S. Senate Committee of Civil Rights, known as the LA FOLLETTE COMMITTEE, U. S. Senate. His wife, JESSICA SMITH, is a key figure in Communist activities in the U.S. ABT is a close friend and frequently associates with the most prominent Communist Party functionaries, such as ROY HUDSON.</p> <p><i>(X)(u)</i></p>			<p><i>O/S</i></p> <p><i>5/4/62 CLASS. & EXT. BY SP6 [illegible] REASON-FCIM II, 2-2.4.2 DATE OF REVIEW 7/75</i></p>
REFERENCE: Bureau File Number 100-236194 Bureau letter to New York dated March 31, 1944.			
DETAILS: This subject is considered a key figure in Communist Party activities by the New York Field Division.			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED: E. P. Cannon	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
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Soviet Government to farm 40,000 acres there. JESSICA SMITH was with her husband during this experiment, and in 1926 was an Executive Secretary of the Russian Reconstruction Farm. WARE was a prominent individual in COMMUNIST PARTY activities and was deceased sometime around 1935-36.

JESSICA SMITH is president of the S. R. T. PUBLICATIONS and editor of the magazine "SOVIET RUSSIA TODAY" which has constantly followed Communist policies and engaged in Communist propaganda. JESSICA SMITH is known to keep in close contact with ALEXANDER TRACHTENBERG and ROY HUDSON and ROBERT MINOR, as well as other leaders and prominent individuals in the COMMUNIST PARTY, USA.

O/S

JESSICA SMITH was employed for five years in Washington, D. C. by the Embassy of the USSR and on July 18, 1936, JESSICA SMITH obtained a passport, at which time she gave her occupation as that of a writer connected with the press department of the Soviet Embassy, Washington, D. C. Her identifying witnesses both gave addresses as the Embassy of the USSR, Washington, D. C.

[Confidential Informant T-1 has advised that ABT has living at his home at the present time [redacted] [redacted]

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ACTIVITIES

[Source of Information I] reflects that on July 23, 1942 ALEXANDER STEVENS went to 34-44 84th Street, Jackson Heights, New York, which was the home of JOHN J. ABT and JESSICA SMITH ABT, and on July 24, 1942 STEVENS went to the apartment 8-K at 145 East 57th Street, the apartment which is occupied by MRS. MILDRED S. ABT, widow of JACOB J. ABT, and who is the mother of the subject of this case. On July 27, 1942 STEVENS visited JOHN J. ABT at 34-44 84th Street, Jackson Heights, New York.

This source of information reflects that MRS. MILDRED S. ABT, the mother of the subject, is also the sister of MRS. H. W. BLOCK, HOTEL CHATHAM, Vanderbilt Avenue and 49th Street, New York City; and that MR. H. W. BLOCK is employed in the Department of Agriculture Adjustment Administration, having received his employment on November 22, 1933 and receives \$6500 per year.

ALEXANDER STEVENS, alias ALEXANDER GOLDBERG is known to the New York Field Division also as J. PETERS, and has alien registration number 3404243, having been born on August 11, 1894 at Cop, Czechoslovakia. STEVENS is employed as an assembler by the DYNAVOX CORPORATION, 55 East 11th Street, New York City, which is a concern manufacturing electrical portable and phonographic equipment. STEVENS was formerly very prominent in COMMUNIST PARTY activities, was an instructor at the WORKERS' SCHOOL,

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employment with the Department as a Special Assistant to the Attorney General in the Anti-Trust Division on July 7, 1937 at a salary of \$7500. On July 1, 1938 he received a salary increase to \$8500. On July 16, 1938 ABT was transferred to New York City in connection with Anti-Trust work, where he remained until November 30, 1938, at which time he resigned.

O/S

The Department records reflect that on November 22, 1933 ABT was appointed to the position in the Department of Agriculture at a salary of \$6,000 per year, from which position he resigned on June 25, 1935, at which time he was receiving \$6500 per year. On July 25, 1935 he obtained employment with the Federal Emergency Relief Administration at a salary of \$6000. On December 16, 1935 he went with the WPA at that salary.

The following is a physical description/^{which} was obtained from the Selective Service records on the subject;

Age:	40
Born:	May 1, 1904
Place:	Chicago, Illinois
Height:	5' 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
Weight:	150
Eyes:	Brown
Hair:	Brown, partially bald at the temples
Complexion:	Dark
Dress:	Well dressed, distinguished looking
Build:	Average
Family: wife:	JESSICA SMITH ABT
Home address:	(former) 34-44 84th Street, Jackson Heights, New York (present) 444 Central Park West, New York City
Business address:	15 Union Square, New York City
Occupation:	Attorney

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The files of the New York Field Division reflect that ABT's wife, JESSICA SMITH ABT, was before her present marriage, married to HAROLD M. WARE. It is known that HAROLD M. WARE was much in sympathy with the Soviet system and in 1921 he purchased a number of tractors, solicited farm laborers in the United States, went to Russia and secured permission of the

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